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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Item 113 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. By its resolution 52/115 of 12 December 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide all the facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; invited the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session an updated report on the status of the Convention. A similar resolution was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 9 April 1998 (resolution 1998/16).

3. As at 31 August 1998, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had been ratified or acceded to by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda and signed by Chile and Mexico. The Convention will enter into force when at least 20 States have ratified or acceded to it.

4. In connection with the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 4 of its resolution 52/115, it may be recalled that a letter encouraging all States Members of the United Nations

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to adhere to international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, was sent by the Secretary-General in December 1997. A similar letter was sent by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the same date. In March 1998, a campaigner's handbook to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Migrants' Rights Convention, entitled "Achieving dignity", was produced by the International Migrants Rights Watch Committee. Additionally, a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for the Migrants' Rights Convention was convened in Geneva on 16 June 1998 by the above-mentioned Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a strategy for building and popularizing the Global Campaign to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Convention. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in and supported both initiatives.

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Fifty-third session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-third session

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Letter dated 11 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States for the month of August, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly of an additional item of particular importance to African countries, entitled "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". It is proposed that this additional item be considered directly in plenary meetings.

Should the General Assembly decide to include this important item in its agenda, and to consider it directly in plenary meetings, it would be desirable for it to be considered as close as possible to the end of the general debate of the General Assembly. This is to facilitate participation at a higher level in the consideration of this item.

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, this request is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.

(*Signed*) Martin **Andjaba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-23659 (E) 140898

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The Security Council convened at the level of Foreign Ministers on 25 September 1997 to consider the need for a concerted international effort for the promotion of peace and security in Africa. Among other things, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report regarding the sources of conflict in Africa, ways to prevent and address them, and how to lay the foundation for durable peace and economic growth.

On 13 April 1998, the Secretary-General issued a report (A/52/871-S/1998/318) on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. This report was subsequently considered by the Security Council on 28 May 1998, followed by the adoption of resolution 1170 (1998).

Furthermore, the above-mentioned report, owing to the fact that it addresses challenges which exceed the purview of the Security Council, was submitted among others to the General Assembly for consideration.

Today parts of the African continent are mired in conflict, which is hampering development and thus causing immense social strife. Despite the various efforts put in place by African Governments, the socio-economic situation in Africa remains precarious owing to a combination of factors, including unfavourable external economic conditions.

In addition, a number of international commitments and undertakings aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict in Africa so as to ensure long-term stability, peace and sustained economic growth and development are to a large extent not fully implemented.

Good governance, which is an important prerequisite for sustained socio-economic development, is undermined through lost economic productivity, the destruction of physical and social infrastructure, refugees, environmental degradation and human suffering.

Humanitarian assistance is not sufficiently tailored to the multi-dimensional needs of refugees, especially women and children.

All these factors, among others, need to be comprehensively addressed by the international community in order to enhance development in Africa.